



## CHINMAYA MISSION LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

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November 2, 2015

### TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

*Resident Minister*

Swami Ishwarananda

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*Vice President*

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Chinmaya mission conducts weekly classes for children on Hindu culture, that are very essential for their growth in their role of community service and to give them a strong footing on the values that will help them become very good citizens of the world. In Southern California alone we have over 1200 children who are the beneficiaries of this teaching. In all, over 8000 children are attending similar weekly classes in various Chinmaya Mission centers in North America. It is our deep concern that what they learn about Hinduism in their schools also should accurately depict their true cultural and spiritual heritage.

We are writing to express our general support for the suggested edits of Dr. Shiva Bajpai of the Uberoi Foundation Institute for Curriculum Advancement. While we have no in-house scholar here in California to evaluate the edits closely, they certainly seem sound to us. What we can affirm with authority is that our Chinmaya Mission Bala Vihar students have been substantially impacted by the negative presentation of our religion and the history of India in their 6th grade social studies classes. All those who testified at the December, 2014, IQC meeting were our students, and you heard their pleas.

Please do not underestimate the consequences for our children of these few weeks studying India with its highly distorted focus on caste, and demeaning explanation of our key beliefs.

We urge you to act on this important aspect of our nation's children to make sure that particularly in these difficult times, positive values and teaching of our values is encouraged.

If you want to see an example of what the textbooks say, please download these chapters on Hinduism and Judaism here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/rckjpp6ewhm6ytt/Discovering%20Our%20Past%20Ancient%20Civilizations%20Glencoe%20w%20edits%20Chapter%204%20Early%20India.pdf?dl=0>

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/dq6tvm2csdqhu94/Discovering%20Our%20Past%20Ancient%20Civilizations%20Glencoe%20w%20edits%20Chapter%203%20The%20Ancient%20Israelites.pdf?dl=0>

All the textbooks currently in use in California (3.5GB) can be downloaded here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/d9tltak977jbg2/AAAp1IVP-f1nmJwVEKL-qXdua?dl=0>

Sincerely

**Dr. P. Mahadev**, Secretary Chinmaya mission Los Angeles